

THREE IN A ROW?

WYCOMBE Wanderers, who have won their last two away matches, hope to make it three in a row tonight (Tuesday) when they visit Staines Town, currently bottom of the Berger Isthmian League.

It's been a funny old season for Staines who have recorded only one win in eight games — but what a win that was! They beat reigning champions Enfield 1-0 with a goal from Chester Williams in what was the shock of the season.

Staines main problems have been in defence where they are missing the services of the former Wanderers player Rob Williams. Rob, brother of Wycombe manager Andy Williams, cracked three ribs in the second game of the season and has been out ever since.

They have three major new signings since last season. Goalkeeper Graham Yates came from Walton and Hertham, while other newcomers are Barry Steer (Horsham) and Eugene Bissett (Burnham).

Steer distinguished himself by getting sent off against Tilbury.

Staines are still in the F.A. Cup after Saturday's 3-1 victory over Willesden, but several players suffered knocks in that game.

Wycombe's Youth team who are enjoying a good run in the F.A. Youth Cup, open their Berger Youth Cup programme tomorrow (Wednesday) night when they entertain coincidentally Staines Youth at Loakes Park.

Late winner disallowed!

WYCOMBE lost a great chance of closing the gap with the leaders when they frittered away numerous scoring opportunities and had to settle for a draw with Dagenham in the Berger Isthmian League on Saturday.

The main Wycombe offenders were Derek Harris and Mick Holifield who found the Dagenham goalkeeper Ian Hutley in supreme form with some excellent saves. But they would not have given him the chance to shine if their shooting had been up to scratch.

And when Wycombe appeared to have scored the winner five minutes from the end — Dylan Evans headed home brilliantly from Paul

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe Wanderers 1, Dagenham 1

Birdseye's free-kick — it was disallowed as Evans had crept into an off-side position.

Wycombe's frustration had begun early. The Dagenham coach had broken down twice on the way to Loakes Park, and a search party had to be sent to fetch them to the ground.

The match therefore kicked off 30 minutes late. This could not have helped the Blues' preparation as they had to kick their heels for half an hour.

When play did eventually start Wycombe should have scored three times in the first five minutes. First, Holifield's cross went straight across the face of the

goal without a touch, then Evans raced on to a long clearance by Spittle to bring a good save from Hutley and finally Holifield headed over from close range.

When Harris fired just wide from a great position on the half hour it appeared Wycombe might never score, but a minute later they went ahead.

Bobby Davies sent a high cross from the left which eluded Hutley. Priestley, at the far post was so astonished at the ball reaching him, that he let it hit his leg.

The ball rebounded against the post but Priestley made no mistake with his second shot which he planted firmly into the back of the net.

Because of a family bereavement John Maskell was unavailable, and the appearance of his deputy Spittle seemed to have an unnerving effect on the rest of the defence.

Jittery

Alan Phillips and Steve Hardwick appeared, particularly jittery and it was a mistake by Hardwick that led to the Dagenham equaliser four minutes later.

Spittle did not come out for a high cross from the right. Hardwick, going for the clearance could only back head it against his own bar. The ball rebounded to the talented Joe Dunwell who bundled it over the line.

Wycombe's defence tightened up in the second half which the home team dominated. Holifield twice moved into scoring positions only to be thwarted by Hutley, while Harris once beat the goalkeeper with a header only to see Paul Gilbert clear off the line.

Their frustration was complete when that final effort was ruled off-side and their only consolation was that Dagenham had seen a similar effort by Dunwell also cancelled out by the linesman's flag.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, J. Priestley, M. Holifield, D. Evans, S. Long, D. Harris. Sub: Scott (not used).

DAGENHAM: I. Hutley; P. Wellman, T. Scales, J. Dunwell, N. Welch, D. Moore, M. Harkins, P. Gilbert, R. Kidd, D. Bond, S. Wilkins (sub: R. Harris 79 mins).

Referee: N. Butler (London).

Half-time: 1-1. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Priestley (31 mins); Dagenham — Dunwell (35).

IN these days of rising prices and falling crowds, many senior football clubs rely on sponsorship from local firms and business to keep their heads above water.

However, one team still looking for financial help are Wycombe Wanderers. In the Blues programme recently, club secretary John Goldsworthy said: "We have endeavoured to find a local sponsor but sadly to date without success. If any supporters know of a firm who are interested please let me know."

You can imagine the embarrassment on the faces of Wycombe officials, when the same week, Slough Town announced they had received sponsorship from Russel Motors Services from Naphill, who actually advertise at Loakes Park.

It seems that Wanderers were a little slow on the draw. There must be numerous businesses in this prosperous town who would jump at the chance of having their name linked with the club, especially in the event of a long F.A. Cup run.

It's time that Wycombe — both the club and local firms — got on the ball!